



New Measurements of the $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ Form Factor Ratios

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Abstract

Using a large sample of $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ decays collected by the FOCUS photo-production experiment at Fermilab, we present new measurements of two semi-leptonic form factor ratios: r_v and r_2 . We find $r_v = 1.549 \pm 0.250 \pm 0.145$ and $r_2 = 0.713 \pm 0.202 \pm 0.266$. These values are consistent with r_v and r_2 form factors measured for the process $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \ell^+ \nu_\ell$.

1 Introduction

This paper provides new measurements of the parameters that describe $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ decay. The $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ decay amplitude is described [1] by four form factors with an assumed (pole form) q^2 dependence. Following earlier experimental work [2–13], the $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ amplitude is then described by ratios of form factors taken at $q^2 = 0$. The traditional set is: r_2 , r_3 , and r_v which we define explicitly after Equation 1. According to flavor SU(3) symmetry, one expects that the the form factor ratios describing $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ should be close to those describing $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \mu^+ \nu$ since the D_s^+ only differs from the D^+ through the replacement of a \bar{d} quark by a \bar{s} quark spectator. The existing lattice gauge calculations [14] predict that the form factor ratios describing $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ should lie within 10% of those describing $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \ell^+ \nu_\ell$. Although the measured r_v form factors are quite consistent between $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ and $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \ell^+ \nu_\ell$, there is presently a 3.3σ discrepancy between the r_2 values measured for these two processes with the previously measured $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ value being a factor of about 1.8 times larger than the r_2 value measured for $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ [7]. One quark model calculation [15] offers a possible explanation for the apparent inconsistency in the r_2 values measured for $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ and $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \ell^+ \nu_\ell$.

Five kinematic variables that uniquely describe $D_s^+ \rightarrow K^+ K^- \mu^+ \nu$ decay are illustrated in Figure 1. These are the $K^- K^+$ invariant mass ($m_{K^+ K^-}$), the square of the $\mu\nu$ mass (q^2), and three decay angles: the angle between the K^+ and the D_s^+ direction in the $K^- K^+$ rest frame (θ_v), the angle between the ν and the D_s^+ direction in the $\mu\nu$ rest frame (θ_ℓ), and the acoplanarity angle between the two decay planes (χ). These angular conventions on θ_ℓ and θ_v apply to both the D_s^+ and D_s^- . The sense of the acoplanarity variable is defined via a cross product expression of the form: $(\vec{P}_\mu \times \vec{P}_\nu) \times (\vec{P}_{K^-} \times \vec{P}_{K^+}) \cdot \vec{P}_{K^- K^+}$ where all momentum vectors are in the D_s^+ rest frame. Since this expression involves five momentum vectors, as one goes from $D_s^+ \rightarrow D_s^-$ one must change $\chi \rightarrow -\chi$ in Equation 1 to get the same intensity for the D_s^+ and D_s^- assuming CP symmetry.

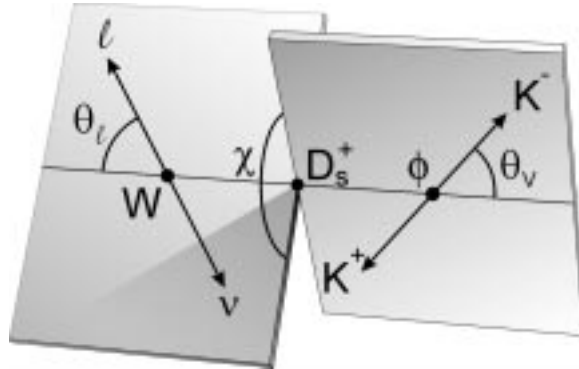


Fig. 1. Definition of kinematic variables.

Using the notation of [1], we write the decay distribution for $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ in terms of the four helicity basis form factors: H_+ , H_0 , H_- , H_t .

$$\frac{d^5\Gamma}{dm_{K\pi} dq^2 d\cos\theta_V d\cos\theta_\ell d\chi} \propto K(q^2 - m_\ell^2) \left\{ \left| \begin{aligned} &(1 + \cos\theta_\ell) \sin\theta_V e^{i\chi} B_\phi H_+ \\ &-(1 - \cos\theta_\ell) \sin\theta_V e^{-i\chi} B_\phi H_- \\ &-2 \sin\theta_\ell (\cos\theta_V B_\phi + A e^{i\delta}) H_0 \end{aligned} \right|^2 + \frac{m_\ell^2}{q^2} \left| \begin{aligned} &\sin\theta_\ell \sin\theta_V B_\phi (e^{i\chi} H_+ + e^{-i\chi} H_-) \\ &+ 2 \cos\theta_\ell (\cos\theta_V B_\phi + A e^{i\delta}) H_0 \\ &+ 2 (\cos\theta_V B_\phi + A e^{i\delta}) H_t \end{aligned} \right|^2 \right\} \quad (1)$$

where K is the momentum of the $K^- K^+$ system in the rest frame of the D_s^+ . The first term gives the intensity for the μ^+ to be right-handed, while the (highly suppressed) second term gives the intensity for it to be left-handed. The helicity basis form factors are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} H_\pm(q^2) &= (M_D + m_{K\pi}) A_1(q^2) \mp 2 \frac{M_D K}{M_D + m_{K\pi}} V(q^2) \\ H_0(q^2) &= \frac{1}{2m_{K\pi}\sqrt{q^2}} \left[(M_D^2 - m_{K\pi}^2 - q^2)(M_D + m_{K\pi}) A_1(q^2) - 4 \frac{M_D^2 K^2}{M_D + m_{K\pi}} A_2(q^2) \right] \\ H_t(q^2) &= \frac{M_D K}{M_{K\pi}\sqrt{q^2}} \left[(M_D + M_{K\pi}) A_1(q^2) - \frac{(M_D^2 - M_{K\pi}^2 + q^2)}{M_D + M_{K\pi}} A_2(q^2) + \frac{2q^2}{M_D + M_{K\pi}} A_3(q^2) \right] \end{aligned}$$

The vector and axial form factors are generally parameterized by a pole dominance form:

$$A_i(q^2) = \frac{A_i(0)}{1 - q^2/M_A^2} \quad V(q^2) = \frac{V(0)}{1 - q^2/M_V^2}$$

where we use nominal (spectroscopic) pole masses of $M_A = 2.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $M_V = 2.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. The B_ϕ denotes the Breit-Wigner amplitude describing the ϕ resonance:¹

$$B_\phi = \frac{\sqrt{m_0} \Gamma \left(\frac{P^*}{P_0^*} \right)}{m_{KK}^2 - m_0^2 + i m_0 \Gamma \left(\frac{P^*}{P_0^*} \right)^3}$$

¹ We are using a p -wave Breit-Wigner form with a width proportional to the cube of the kaon momentum in the kaon-kaon rest frame (P^*) over the value of this momentum when the kaon-kaon mass equals the resonant mass (P_0^*). The squared modulus of our Breit-Wigner form will have an effective P^{*3} dependence in the numerator as well. Two powers P^* come explicitly from the P^* in the numerator of the amplitude and one power arises from the 4 body phase space.

Equation 1 includes a possible s -wave amplitude coupling to the virtual W^+ with the same q^2 dependence as that of the H_0 (or H_t) form factor. Evidence for such an s -wave amplitude term for the decay $D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \mu^+ \nu$ was presented in Reference [3]. An explicit search was made for s -wave amplitude interference with the process $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ and no evidence for this interference was seen. We were able to limit the s -wave contribution to be less than 5% of the maximum of the ϕ Breit-Wigner peak in the H_0 piece of Equation 1 at the 90% confidence level. The results presented here will therefore assume $A = 0$ in Equation 1. Under these assumptions, the decay intensity is then parameterized by the $r_v \equiv V(0)/A_1(0)$, $r_2 \equiv A_2(0)/A_1(0)$, $r_3 \equiv A_3(0)/A_1(0)$ form factor ratios describing the $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ amplitude. Throughout this paper, unless explicitly stated otherwise, the charge conjugate is also implied when a decay mode of a specific charge is stated.

2 Experimental and analysis details

The data for this paper were collected in the Wideband photoproduction experiment FOCUS during the Fermilab 1996–1997 fixed-target run. In FOCUS, a forward multi-particle spectrometer is used to measure the interactions of high energy photons on a segmented BeO target. The FOCUS detector is a large aperture, fixed-target spectrometer with excellent vertexing and particle identification. Most of the FOCUS experiment and analysis techniques have been described previously [3,16–18,20]. Our analysis cuts were chosen to give reasonably uniform acceptance over the five kinematic decay variables, while maintaining a strong rejection of backgrounds. To suppress background from the re-interaction of particles in the target region which can mimic a decay vertex, we required that the charm secondary vertex was located at least three standard deviation outside of all solid material including our target and target microstrip system.

To isolate the $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ topology, we required that candidate muon, pion, and kaon tracks appeared in a secondary vertex with a confidence level exceeding 1%. The muon track, when extrapolated to the shielded muon arrays, was required to match muon hits with a confidence level exceeding 5%. The kaon was required to have a Čerenkov light pattern more consistent with that for a kaon than that for a pion by 1 unit of log likelihood [18]. To further reduce non-charm background we required that our primary vertex consisted of at least two charged tracks. To further reduce muon misidentification, a muon candidate was allowed to have at most one missing hit in the 6 planes comprising our inner muon system and an energy exceeding 10 GeV. In order to suppress muons from pions and kaons decaying within our apparatus, we required that each muon candidate had a confidence level exceeding 1% to the hypothesis that it had a consistent trajectory through our two analysis magnets.

Non-charm and random combinatoric backgrounds were reduced by requiring both a detachment between the vertex containing the $K^-K^+\mu^+$ and the primary production vertex of at least 5 standard deviations.

Possible background from $D^+ \rightarrow K^-K^+\pi^+$, where a pion is misidentified as a muon, was reduced by treating the muon as a pion and requiring the reconstructed $KK\pi$ mass be less than $1.8 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. The $m_{K^+K^-}$ distribution for our $D_s^+ \rightarrow K^+K^-\mu^+\nu$ candidates is shown in Figure 2.

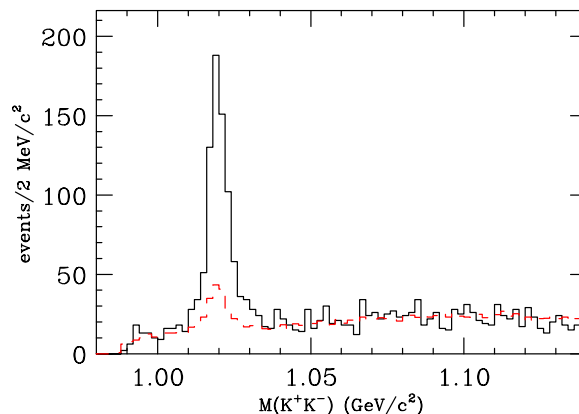


Fig. 2. The data is the solid histogram and $cc\bar{b}ar$ background Monte Carlo is the dashed histogram. The $cc\bar{b}ar$ background Monte Carlo is normalized to the same number of events in the sideband region $1.040 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < m_{K^+K^-} < 1.14 \text{ GeV}/c^2$.

The technique used to reconstruct the neutrino momentum through the D_s^+ line-of-flight, and tests of our ability to simulate the resolution on kinematic variables that rely on the neutrino momentum are described in Reference [3].

3 Fitting Technique

The r_v and r_2 form factors were fit to the probability density function described by four fitted kinematic variables (q^2 , $\cos\theta_V$, $\cos\theta_\ell$, and χ) for decays in the mass range $1.010 < m_{K^+K^-} < 1.030$. We use a variant of the continuous fitting technique developed by the E691 Collaboration [19] for fitting decay intensities where several of the kinematic variables have very poor resolution such as the four variables that rely on reconstructed neutrino kinematics.

The fit which determines the r_v and r_2 form factor ratios minimizes the sum of $w = -2 \ln I$ where I is the normalized decay intensity at each datum. The intensity at each datum is estimated by the weight of Monte Carlo events that lie within a small window of each of the four (reconstructed) kinematic variables of the given datum.² Some care is needed in choosing a reasonable size of the windows since too small a window will result in fluctuations due

² A Monte Carlo event had to lie within 0.08 to each datum in both $\cos\theta_V$ and $\cos\theta_\ell$, within 0.18 radians in χ , and within $0.8 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$ in q^2 .

to finite Monte Carlo statistics, and too large a window will create a bias in the result. Our principal tool in deciding a reasonable window was to check for biases and fluctuations outside of reported statistical errors using a Monte Carlo simulation that included charm backgrounds with r_v and r_2 values very close to the result reported here. Variations in the final results due to the window choice were included in the estimate of the systematic error.

Two Monte Carlos were employed: a weighted $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ signal Monte Carlo that was generated flat in the four fitted kinematic variables (q^2 , $\cos \theta_V$, $\cos \theta_\ell$, and χ) and an unweighted background Monte Carlo which simulated all known charm decays (apart from the $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ signal) as well as our misidentification levels. The intensity about each datum is an appropriate average of the weighted signal MC and the unweighted background Monte Carlo. The averaging depended on the background fraction determined by matching the number of events in the ϕ sideband region $1.040 < m_{K^+K^-} < 1.14$ GeV/ c^2 in the background Monte Carlo to the sideband level observed in the data.

Our fit was to the r_v and r_2 form factor ratios with r_3 and the possible s -wave amplitude set to zero. We decided not to fit for the r_3 form factor ratio since our anticipated r_3 error given our sample size would be too large to be meaningful.

Figure 3 compares the data and model for projections of $\cos \theta_V$, $\cos \theta_\ell$, χ and q^2/q_{\max}^2 . Most of these distributions follow the predicted values reasonably well. A slight discrepancy is evident in the low q^2/q_{\max}^2 projection (below $q^2/q_{\max}^2 < 0.2$). A stronger effect was observed in Reference [2] possibly owing to our much larger yield in the $D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \mu^+ \nu$ final state.

Figure 4 compares the $\cos \theta_V$ and $\cos \theta_\ell$ distribution between the data and our Monte Carlo model for events at high and low q^2 . As $q^2 \rightarrow q_{\max}^2$ one expects an isotropic distribution in both $\cos \theta_V$ and $\cos \theta_\ell$ since all three helicity basis form factors become equal. The data presented in Figure 4 match this expectation relatively well.

4 Form Factor Ratio Systematic Errors

Three basic approaches were used to determine the systematic error on the form factor ratios. In the first approach, we measured the stability of the branching ratio with respect to variations in analysis cuts designed to suppress backgrounds. In these studies we varied cuts such as the detachment criteria, particle identification cuts, vertex isolation cuts, and the out-of-material cut. Sixteen such cut sets were considered. In the second approach, we split our sample according to a variety of criteria deemed relevant to our acceptance, production, and decay models and estimated a systematic based on the con-

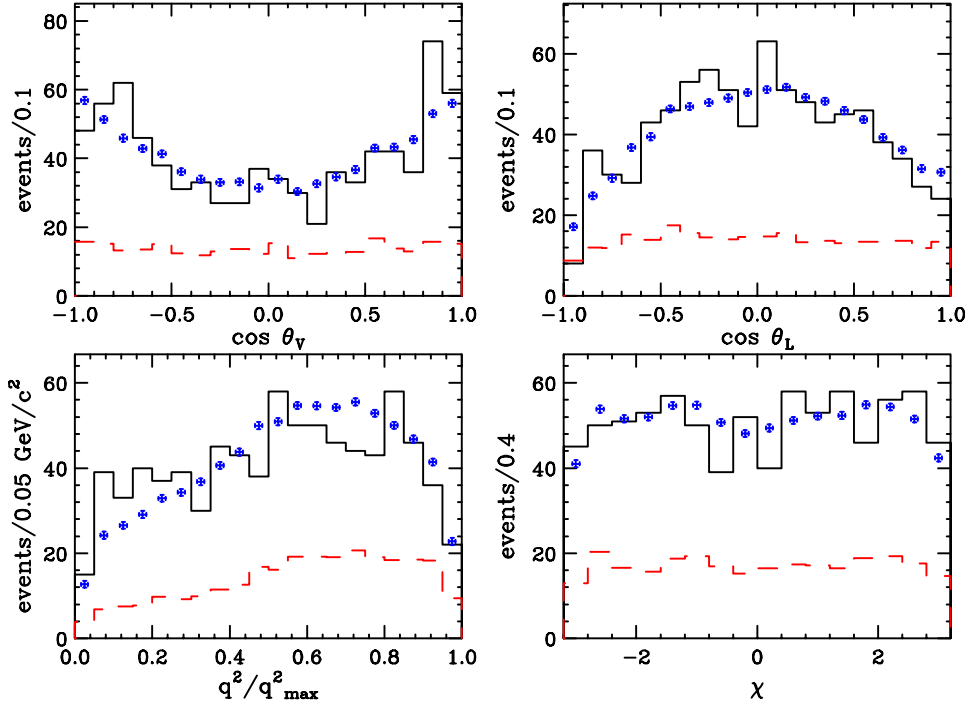


Fig. 3. The data are given by the upper histogram. The model (crosses with flats) includes the signal computed with the fitted form factor ratios plus the sideband normalized $c\bar{c}$ background. The lower histogram (dashed) shows the projections of the $c\bar{c}$ background. (a) $\cos \theta_V$ (b) $\cos \theta_L$ (c) q^2/q_{\max}^2 (d) χ

sistency of the form factor ratio measurements among the split samples. These included computing separate form factors for particles and antiparticles, and comparing the values obtained over the full data set to values obtained from a subset (2/3) of the data in which the target silicon [20] was operational. In the third approach we checked the stability of the branching fraction as we varied specific parameters in our Monte Carlo model and fitting procedure. These included varying the level of the charm background and in the size of the kinematic windows used to associate Monte Carlo events with data points in the computation of the fitting intensity. The only non-negligible systematic error was that due to variation in the results over the sixteen cut selections. Combining all three non-zero systematic error estimates in quadrature we find $r_v = 1.549 \pm 0.250 \pm 0.145$ and $r_2 = 0.713 \pm 0.202 \pm 0.266$.

5 Summary

In Table 1 we compare our results to other experiments. Our weighted average of all the experimental results is $r_v = 1.678 \pm 0.213$ and $r_2 = 1.292 \pm 0.194$ where systematic errors have been included. We obtain a confidence level of 44.3% that all 5 experiments have a consistent r_v and a confidence level of 21.5 % that all r_2 measurements are consistent. Figure 5 is a graphical representation of Table 1.

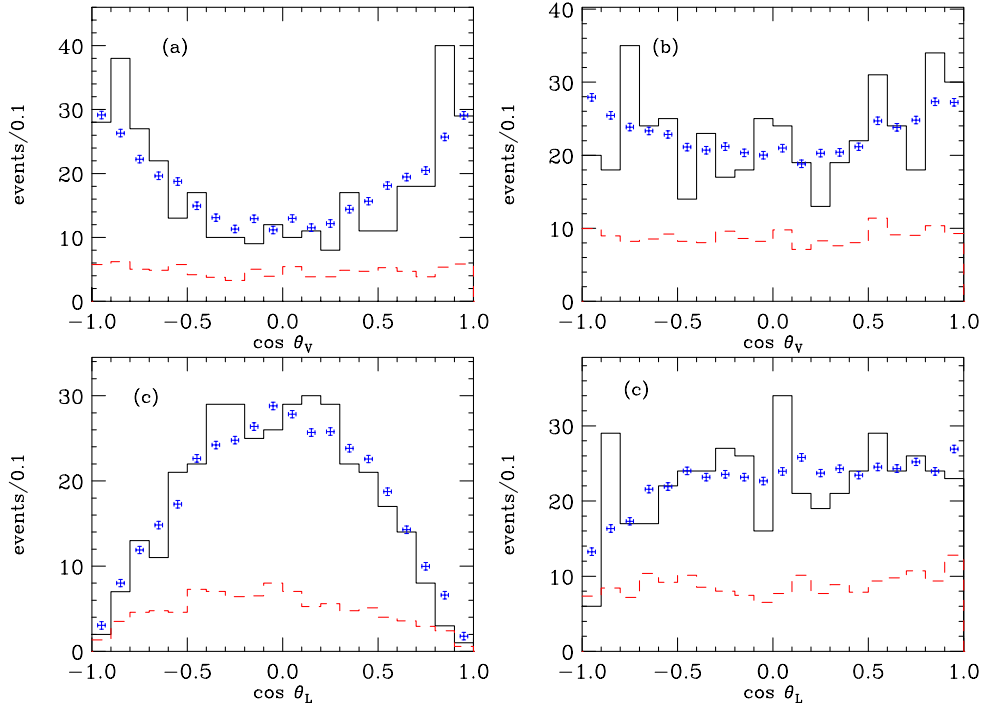


Fig. 4. Various $\cos \theta_V$ and $\cos \theta_\ell$ projections. The data are given by the upper histogram. The model (crosses with flats) includes the signal computed with the fitted form factor ratios plus the sideband normalized ccb \bar{a} background. The lower histogram (dashed) shows the projections of the ccb \bar{a} background. (a) The $\cos \theta_V$ distribution for $q^2/q^2_{\max} < 0.5$ (b) The $\cos \theta_V$ distribution for $q^2/q^2_{\max} > 0.5$ (c) The $\cos \theta_\ell$ distribution for $q^2/q^2_{\max} < 0.5$ (d) The $\cos \theta_\ell$ distribution for $q^2/q^2_{\max} > 0.5$

Table 1

Measurements of the $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ form factor ratios

Group	r_v	r_2
This work	$1.549 \pm 0.250 \pm 0.145$	$0.713 \pm 0.202 \pm 0.266$
E791[7]	$2.27 \pm 0.35 \pm 0.22$	$1.570 \pm 0.250 \pm 0.190$
CLEO[8]	$0.9 \pm 0.6 \pm 0.3$	$1.400 \pm 0.500 \pm 0.300$
E653[12]	$2.3 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.4$	$2.100 \pm 0.550 \pm 0.200$
E687[10]	$1.8 \pm 0.9 \pm 0.2$	$1.100 \pm 0.800 \pm 0.100$

Our measured r_v and r_2 values for $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ are very consistent with our measured r_v and r_2 values for $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \mu^+ \nu$ [2]. The measurements reported here call into question the apparent inconsistency between r_2 values the $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ and $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ form factors present in previously published data and are consistent with the theoretical expectation that the form factors for the two processes should be very similar.

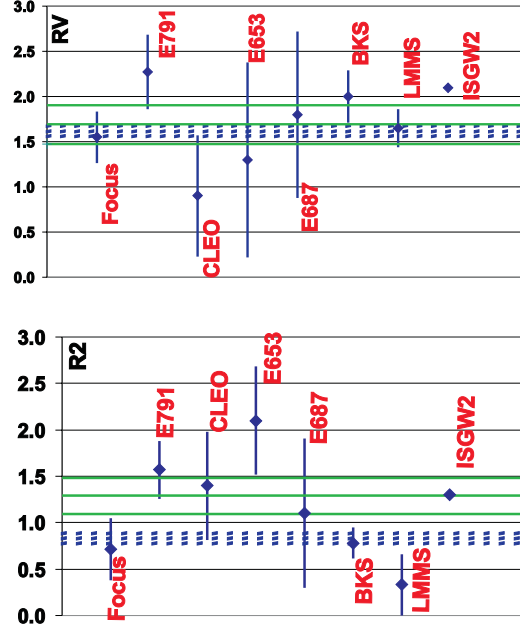


Fig. 5. Comparison to previous data and calculations of the $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ form factors. The three solid green lines represent the weighted average of the world's experimental data for $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \mu^+ \nu$ and $\pm 1 \sigma$. The three dashed blue lines represent the weighted average of the world's experimental data on $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} \mu^+ \nu$ and $\pm 1 \sigma$.

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